Control Of Family Size May Become State Issue

RALEIGH (AP) — Dr. Alan F. Guttmacher, president of the Planned Parenthood-World Population Association, says the population explosion has given rise to the question of whether the state will have a responsibility in the future to tell a couple how many children they may have.

Dr. Guttmacher told a population symposium at North Carolina State University Wednesday that tremendous growth in the world's population "has introduced a new and urgent element in fertility control. Now it is not only essential for individual welfare but for the welfare of all individuals."

"This new dimension in the control of fertility," he said, "has caused the serious question to arise as to whether or not the control of fertility remains solely the responsibility of the individual or does the state have a responsibility.

"Just as one may now question whether the individual should have license to pollute his environment as much as he desires, one may question whether he should have license to spawn or bear as many children as he wishes."

Guttmacher said many experts still hope to solve the overpopulation problem "through the voluntary cooperation of the world's citizenry."

"This," he said, "calls for a complex effort involving widespread educational and socio-economic changes. Others feel the situation is too grave to trust to voluntary family planning and believe that incentives and even coercion must be promptly employed.

"The difficulties of introducing such a program are enormous, especially in a democracy. Among many difficulties would be to guarantee nondiscriminatory application."